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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/474/Add.2)*]

70/212. International Day of Women and Girls in Science

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, in which it recognized that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women and girls of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recalling also all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, including on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,[1]

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

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Realizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Realizing also that women, representing half of the world's population, continue to be excluded from participating fully in the economy,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, stating that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Reaffirming also that women have a vital role to play in achieving sustainable development, and reiterating its resolve to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable development policies, programmes and decision-making at all levels,

Recognizing that women and girls play a critical role in science and technology communities and that their participation should be strengthened,

Recognizing also the important contribution of the science and technology community to sustainable development and in promoting the empowerment, participation and contribution of women and girls in science, technology and innovation,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant organizations in supporting women scientists and in promoting the access of women and girls to and their participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, training and research activities at all levels,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 11 February of each year the International Day of Women and Girls in Science;

2. *Invites* all Member States, all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, the private sector and academia, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in an appropriate manner, including through education and public awareness-raising activities, in order to promote the full and equal participation of women and girls in education, training, employment and decision-making processes in the sciences, eliminate all discrimination against women, including in the field of education and employment, and overcome legal, economic, social and cultural barriers thereto by, inter alia, encouraging the development of science education policies and programming, including school curricula, as appropriate, to encourage greater participation of women and girls, promote career development for women in science and recognize the achievements of women in science;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UN-Women, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to work together to facilitate the implementation of the International Day in collaboration with all relevant organizations already involved in the promotion of women and girls in science;

4. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations for appropriate observance.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015